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Thursday, December 6, 2012

News worth sharing.



BOLD NEW BLACKBERRY?

Metro got its first look at the new BlackBerry 10 operating system and phones, set to launch in late January. Reporter Bernice Pontanilla tells you whether it's worth ditching your iPhone or Android for on page 8.

BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

Dad liked to party, but says he still loved Phoenix

Phoenix Sinclair inquiry. Hearing has already heard that social workers failed to monitor the family for months at a time

Steve Sinclair had an alcohol problem, was on welfare and would regularly leave his young daughter, Phoenix, with relatives or family friend Kim Edwards while he partied. But he loved the girl and was always interested in parenting her, he testified on Wednesday at an inquiry into his daughter's death.

"Yes, I still partied every once in a while," Sinclair said.

"Where was Phoenix?" asked Sherri Walsh, the lawyer leading the inquiry.

"She would either be at Kim's or my sister Sheila's. Somewhere safe, of course."

Sinclair's partying would cost him guardianship of his daughter. The inquiry has already heard that one of the many times Phoenix was ap-

Testimony

"She was with her mother, you know. Her mother should know better than to hurt her."

Steve Sinclair, Phoenix's father, who says that after he moved to Ontario, he got regular updates about his daughter from a relative.

prehended by social workers in her short life was in June 2003. Sinclair was holding a day-long party with drugs and alcohol that included suspected gang members. Phoenix, who was three, was in the home.

Sinclair said he was willing and able to care for his daughter.

"It didn't seem like (her mom, Samantha Kematch) was, but I was always interested."

By September 2000, Sinclair and Kematch had regained custody of Phoenix, but they would regularly leave her with friends or family to party. Eventually, Phoenix would spend longer periods of time with Edwards.

Sinclair and Kematch separated in 2001 after another baby, Echo, died of a respiratory infection. Sinclair had care of Phoenix but would give her to Edwards for days or weeks at a time to cope with his grief or simply take a break from his responsibilities.

"Echo's death had a great impact on me, so I always relied on (Edwards). She was always there for me."

In 2004, Kematch regained custody of Phoenix. In April of that year, Sinclair saw his daughter for the last time. He moved to Ontario and never visited or talked to either Phoenix or Kematch after that, but got updates from a relative who kept in touch with Kematch.

"She was with her mother, you know. Her mother should know better than to hurt her."

The inquiry is expected to continue through May. It will soon delve into why Phoenix was taken out of a foster home in 2004 and handed back to the mother who, along with a boyfriend, would kill her.

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Life-saving machines

Province's defibrillator legislation a first in Canada

The Manitoba government hopes groundbreaking legislation requiring defibrillators be installed at high-traffic public spaces across the province will make the life-saving machines as common a sight as fire extinguishers in the future.

Premier Greg Selinger announced the types of spaces that will be required to have an automated external defibrillator (AED) installed under the Defibrillator Public Access Act at a press conference Wednesday. "When somebody has a cardiac arrest, and the proper signage is in place and the defibrillator is there ... you can actually save somebody's life," explained the premier of the legislation, which passed with all-party support in 2011. "This legislation is leading the country ... and as time goes along there'll be a further review to see if other facilities would benefit by having these kinds of defibrillators installed on their premise."

For the time being facilities like gyms, arenas, community centres, golf courses, schools and airports are among the public spaces that will be required to have an AED installed by the end of January 2014. The legislation also requires the machines to be registered with the Heart and Stroke Foundation and signage must be erected to identify the locations of the defibrillators. An advisory group including paramedics, community groups and the Heart and Stroke Foundation chose the locations that will be required to have a machine.

"Time is tissue — for every minute of cardiac arrest chances of survival decrease by 10 percent," said Chris Broughton, president of MGEU Local 911.

SHANE GIBSON/METRO

Search. Suspect threatened to harm blind man and his guide dog: Police

Winnipeg police are searching for a man who they say threatened to hurt a blind man and his seeing-eye dog. Police said the man, 41, was waiting for a bus with his guide dog on Portage Avenue and Spence Street on Sept. 17. A man came up to the pair and began distracting the dog, so the dog's owner asked him to stop. The suspect then followed the pair onto the bus and threatened the man's life and that of his dog. **METRO**



Police are looking for this man who they say uttered threats against a blind man and his guide dog. METRO/WPS HANDOUT

Charged. Two arrested after woman reported kidnapped, sexually assaulted

Two men have been arrested after they allegedly kidnapped and sexually assaulted a woman before taking her to rural Manitoba earlier this week, police said.

Winnipeg police added that the woman was walking to a store on Burrows Avenue and Charles Street on Saturday at about 7 a.m. Two men approached her and forced her into a vehicle, took her to an apartment and both sexually assaulted her.

Police said one of the men then drove the woman to Lorette and sexually assaulted her again before she was able to escape. Winnipeg police arrested a man at a residence on Jefferson Avenue the next day, and found the second suspect on Ross Avenue on Tuesday. Michael Douglas Hardy, 35, and Darcy Trevor Stirling, 32, were both charged with kidnapping and sexual assault. Stirling was also charged with theft over \$5,000. **METRO**

Pool closure bad news for inner city swim club

Sink or swim. Area councillor vows to fight for subsidized group



SHANE GIBSON
shane.gibson@metronews.ca

A non-profit volunteer-run swim club for inner city kids is worried they won't be able to stay afloat after the city shuttered their pool indefinitely.

The Sherbrook Pool closed last week to allow a private firm hired by the City of Winnipeg to conduct a detailed structural engineering assessment after a city inspection raised concerns.

The move means the Sherbrook Shark Swim Club and the roughly 35 core-area kids in their subsidized competitive swim program have moved nearly three kilometres away to the Cindy Klassen Recreation Complex on Sargent Avenue.

"It's not ideal in the long-run," said the club's president Karla Dueck Thiessen. "Many of our swimmers walk to prac-

tice, and ... a lot of our low-income families do not have vehicles, so it's an added expense to get bus tickets to get to practice."

While the city didn't say what caused the closure, Dueck Thiessen said the problem has to do with support beams that have rusted over the years.

Attendance at practices has been down by about a third since the change over, according to Dueck Thiessen, who's concerned the move might lead to the club losing grants from the local businesses and community groups who help fund the program.

"A lot of the grants we get ... are to target specifically inner-city kids," she explained. "If we can't attract kids from the inner city because they can't get to practice, then we'll lose those grants."

Area Coun. Harvey Smith (Daniel MacIntyre) said he'd fight to make sure the pool reopens as soon as possible, and in the meantime his office is offering bus tickets to any club members that need them to get to practice. "This is vital to the community," he said.



Sherbrook Shark Club president Karla Dueck Thiessen is worried the non-profit volunteer-run swim club for inner city kids might sink if the Sherbrook Pool closure is long-term. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

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Social media. Province updates anti-bullying measures in schools

Manitoba schools will soon have to take new steps to combat bullying and promote diversity.

The NDP government has introduced a bill that would require school employees, volunteers and others to report any bullying incident to the principal, including on-line activity.

Education Minister Nancy Allan says the bill is partly in response to the death of Amanda Todd, a girl from B.C. who committed suicide in October after being tormented through social media.

The proposed law would also require school boards to ensure their policies about student Internet use include anti-bullying measures.

As well, the bill would require every school board in the province to accommodate students who want to set up groups that promote equality for people based on gender, race or sexual orientation.

Allan says the proposed law is based partly on new legislation in Ontario and British Columbia.

The bill defines bullying as

Quoted

"It's a new issue that all jurisdictions in Canada are dealing with."

Education Minister Nancy Allan, on bullying that includes text messages, email and websites.

an activity intended to "cause fear, intimidation, humiliation, distress or other forms of harm" and specifically includes text messages, email and websites.

A controversy over sexual orientation flared up in Winkler, Man., last winter, when a school took down postcards mentioning gay and lesbian rights from the walls of a Grade 5 classroom. The issue has been cleared up with the area's school division, Allan said.

"They are in the process right now of implementing their human diversity policy. Their trustees are on board and they're working with their community in regards to creating safe and respectful learning environments."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Place Louis Riel Suites Hotel general manager John Saad shows off one of the hotel's 800-square-foot executive suites that will be converted into a one-bedroom apartment for rent within the next couple years. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

It's a suite deal for downtown

Place Louis Riel. Hotel plans transition to rental suites



SHANE GIBSON
shane.gibson@metronews.ca

Downtown Winnipeg's transformation to a residential destination is getting an injection of more than 300 rental suites as the Place Louis Riel Suites Hotel transitions out of the hospitality business.

The building's owners, Alberta-based Westcorp Properties Inc., have decided to convert the 25-storey hotel's 302

suites into 310 studio, one-bedroom and two-bedroom apartments over the next two years.

"It's difficult for people to find good quality apartments at a reasonable price," said the hotel's general manager John Saad Tuesday. "What we're looking for here is to build some higher-end apartments to meet the needs of people who prefer to live in the downtown core."

The new apartments will range in size from 600 to 1,000 square feet and will be nothing new for the 42-year-old building, which started its life as an apartment block before being converted into a hotel in the 1980s.

Layoffs

The hotel has a staff of around 100, who were notified of the changes last week. As well as getting more than a year's warning about the loss of their jobs, the company is providing career and job search training.

The conversion will take place in two phases, with the first roughly 120 unfurnished suites expected to be ready to rent within the next 12 to 18 months, and the remaining suites hitting the market within two years.

Billboards. City takes second look at tax hike

Winnipeg advertising companies have shifted their focus to "quickly" signing off on a new taxation rate for billboards.

On Wednesday, Mayor Sam Katz's executive policy committee voted in favour of the new Digital Sign and Billboard Regulations bylaw, but asked its public service to take another look at the recommended fees.

Representatives of prominent billboard companies, such as Pattison and CBS, as well as the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce, blasted the proposed tax hike during last Friday's property and development committee meeting.

"As an industry, we are very pleased with this result," said Joanne Koop, director of sales for Pattison Outdoor Advertising, adding that the industry would like to see "a taxation rate that makes sense for the City of Winnipeg and is fair."

The industry would not be able to eat this cost, said Koop, and would have to pass it along to its customers, meaning small- to medium-sized businesses would likely be shut out of this advertising opportunity.

Koop said industry reps are hoping to meet with city officials "quickly," as a new fees proposal is expected at the Jan. 15 property and development committee meeting.

The previously proposed rates would see the fee rise for non-digital billboards to \$5.70 per square foot from the current \$1.50, while the proposed rate for digital billboards is \$34.20 per square foot. BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO



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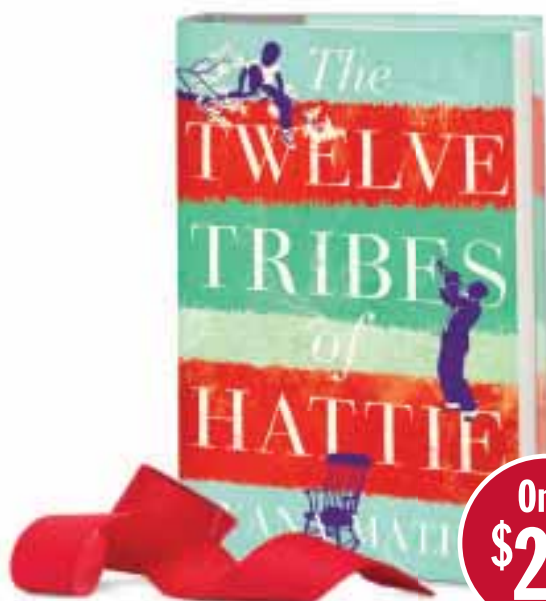
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Heather's Pick

Another great book personally chosen by Indigo's
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The Twelve Tribes of Hattie

By Ayana Mathis

From its devastating first chapter to its perfect last sentence, *The Twelve Tribes of Hattie* never ceases to astonish. Ayana Mathis' first novel is one of the strongest debuts of 2012, and will be talked about, shared and loved for years to come.

Mathis tells the story of Hattie Shepherd as she and her family navigate, negotiate, and survive the twentieth century. Each chapter moves from child to child, and through them Mathis paints a portrait of a mother who has sacrificed everything, not for her children's happiness, but for their mere existence. *The Twelve Tribes of Hattie* is an accomplishment in that even while

Mathis shows us the depths of selfishness, cruelty, and betrayal, she finds moments to let a ray of light shine through dirty windows. She allows her characters to be real – infuriatingly and often tragically real – but so real that you'll be frustrated at their failings and joyful at their moments of quiet optimism.

The Twelve Tribes of Hattie is a book that will live with you long after the last page. It is a book that showcases the talent of a powerful new voice in fiction, and it is certainly a book that deserves to be on everyone's list this holiday.

I loved, loved, loved this book.

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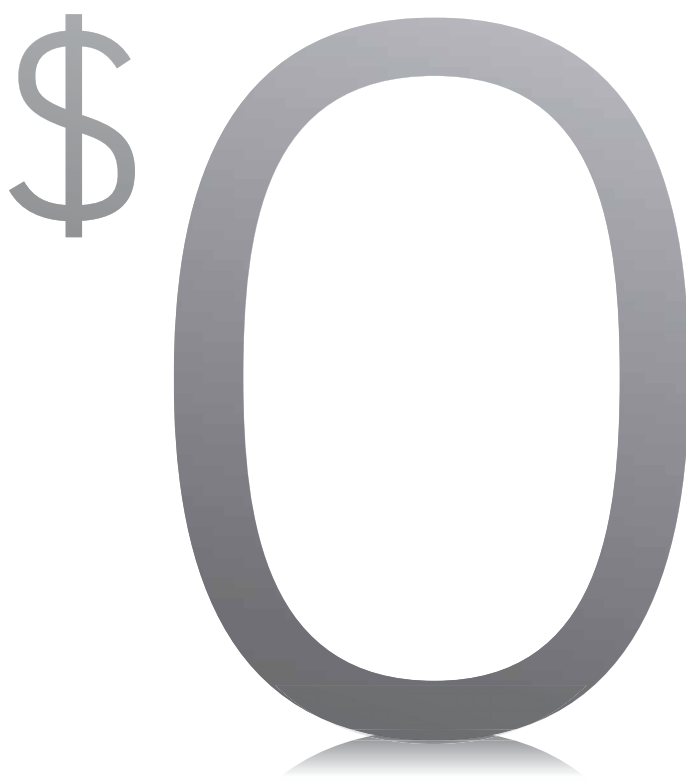
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ABOVE-AVERAGE JOE
Kerri Salki

Meet Alicia — one amazing woman. After leaving high school to work for her dad in Grade 10, Alicia felt that she wanted something more out of life. At 20 years old, she got her diploma and shortly after that met the love of her life. Today, she is a proud mother of two small children. She loves to draw, paint, scrapbook and repurpose furniture. She is also volunteers often, runs a mom-and-tot play group and donates blood every 56 days! She truly believes everything happens for a reason.

Name: Alicia Lazaridis

Occupation: School Trustee/mommy extraordinaire/hotel manager

Dream job: I don't know yet! I've been figuring this out for 26 years.

Favourite meal: Steak sirloin Oscar at The Keg is my favourite food, period.

Real or fake tree: I have a fake tree that I dig out of



Alicia Lazaridis CONTRIBUTED

the basement every year and don't know why!

Last book you read: The Last Masai Warriors (I got it at We Day)

Favourite Show: Grey's Anatomy

Go dancing or stay home and cook? Dancing any day! Bombers or Jets? Disinterested in them equally, but have been to one game for the beer and good times!

Just because they're not famous doesn't mean they're not a somebody. If you know an Above Average Joe that you think needs recognition, email me at kerri.salki@102clearfm.rogers.com.

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RIM shows the 'Peg its new platform

Hub of activity. BB10 features time-shift photos, separation of work and personal



BERNICE PONTANILLA
bernice.pontanilla@metronews.ca

The BlackBerry 10 and its new features were on display on Wednesday at a downtown Winnipeg hotel.

Sarah Burt, public-relations manager for Research In Motion Ltd., visited the city from Waterloo, Ont., to provide a sneak peek and create buzz for the long-awaited new product from the once-powerful Canadian mobile-technology company.

"Technology wise, this is a brand-new platform. It's built from the ground up," Burt said, adding that RIM is hosting official launch parties in Toronto and New York on Jan. 30. "I think it's a winner, for sure."

RIM's most touted feature on the 10 is the "hub" that rests right behind whatever app is open. Email accounts, social



Sarah Burt, public-relations manager for Research In Motion, demonstrates some of the new features in the BlackBerry 10. BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

networking sites, and chats can be added to the hub.

Burt said that as a mom, her favourite feature is the time-shift capability for photos, which allows the user to snap a picture but then to scroll back or forward seconds of time to find the best shot.

"If someone blinks or they stop smiling, you could actually adjust that picture and go back a few seconds to when they were

smiling or when they had their eyes open and get that shot that you really wanted," Burt said.

The 10 also allows for the separation of work-related elements from personal ones, and the work side can be locked.

"If my daughter is playing a game on my BlackBerry, she cannot accidentally email my boss," she added.

RIM hasn't announced when the phones will be available.

Review

BB10 has plenty of promise

The BlackBerry 10 looks to be the gloves RIM needs to get back into the smartphone ring to take on rivals iPhone and Android.

For me, the top new feature is 10's ability to learn the words and slang I use day-to-day, including in other languages.

Currently, on the iPhone, I must switch between languages and that's a total drag when I'm Spanglishing.

The BlackBerry 10 allows its users to have up to three active languages at the same time.

Another aspect of typing that blew my mind is 10's shifting touchscreen keyboard, which essentially means the phone learns how you type and if your fingers go to the edge of letter, it shifts over to accommodate that.

If RIM delivers on the promise, the BlackBerry 10 will likely be a heavyweight to contend with.

BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

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Callous or cowed? No one tried to save man on tracks

Subway horror in N.Y.C. Did a 'bystander effect' stop the crowd from rushing to help a man who was pushed to his death?



MICHELLE CASTILLO
Metro World News in London

The ugly question is: why?

Why did no one on a crowded subway platform in New York City help Ki-Suck Han when he was shoved onto the tracks to his death?

Blame it on the "bystander effect," a psychologist told Metro World News.

Or to put it another way, a "diffusion of responsibility" actually occurs, said Dr. Scott Bea of the Cleveland Clinic Main Campus in Cleveland, Ohio.

Another psychologist, Dr. Elizabeth Waterman, said the more people who see an event like this happen, the less likely they are to help a stranger.



Ki-Suck Han's widow, Serim Han, holds a picture of him at a New York news conference Wednesday. She's reported as saying they had an argument before the tragedy. She tried to phone him later, but he never picked up.

REBETO MATTHEWS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"The pressure for people to take responsibility is diffused among the group of others; therefore, the individuals feel less pressure to help," said Waterman, of Morningside Recovery Centers in Newport Beach, Calif.

Ki-Suck Han died on the tracks at the Times Square subway station.

A gruesome newspaper

photo shows a solitary, tiny figure helplessly clawing at the platform as a Q train looms in the distance.

The New York Post ran the image on its cover, outraging many citizens.

Photographer R. Umar Abasi defended himself Wednesday, saying he used his flash hoping the subway driver would see it and stop.

The suspect

A homeless man, 30-year-old Naeem Davis, was arrested Wednesday in the subway pushing death of Ki-Suck Han.

- **The video.** Security video showed a man fitting the suspect's description working with street vendors near Rockefeller Center, police said.
- **The charge.** Davis is in custody, facing a second-degree murder charge.

"The perp was running toward me. I was afraid he might push me onto the tracks," he wrote in the Post. Bea said: "I would hypothesize that the photographer is trying to ... rationalize his own behaviour."

"The public will have a strong tendency to judge those who were present negatively without understanding the powerful nature of the bystander effect."



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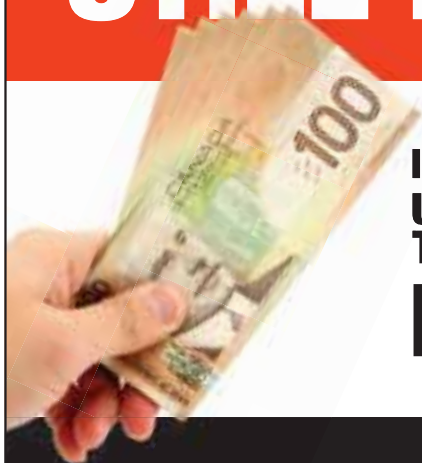
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How's Kate doing? Cheeky Aussie DJs fool U.K. hospital

Prank call. Radio pair from Down Under mimic royal accents and hear the pregnant duchess 'hasn't had any retching'



Pippa and James Middleton leave the London hospital after visiting their sister, Kate.

DAN KITWOOD/GETTY IMAGES

The hospital fell for it — royally.

Two Australian radio disc jockeys apologized on Wednesday after impersonating Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Charles in a prank call that got a London hospital to tell them all about Kate Middleton's condition.

The 30-year-old Duchess of Cambridge is pregnant and is being treated at the King Edward VII hospital in London for severe morning sickness.

A woman using the often-mimicked voice of Britain's monarch asked after the duchess's health — and was told by a nurse that Kate "hasn't had any retching with me and she's been sleeping on and off."

"She's sleeping at the moment and she has had an uneventful night.

"She's been given some fluids. She's stable at the moment," the kindly nurse informed the supposed queen and prince on the station's recording.

A dog yaps in the back-

Quoted

"We're very sorry if we've caused any issues and we're glad to hear that Kate is doing well."

Hoaxers Mel Greig and Michael Christian, issuing a joint apology.

ground while the alleged queen and prince talk about travelling to the hospital to check in on the patient.

"I would suggest that any time after nine o'clock will be suitable to visit," the nurse said. "We'll be getting her freshened up."

Australian radio personalities Mel Greig and Michael Christian of 2DayFM later apologized for the hoax — along with their station.

"We were very surprised that our call was put through. We thought we'd be hung up on as soon as they heard our terrible accents," they said in a joint statement with the radio station.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bulldozing error

Hey, where's our lovely chateau?

Residents of a sleepy French village in Bordeaux have been left dumbfounded after discovering their local 18th-century chateau was completely bulldozed "by mistake."

The mayor's office in Yvrac said Wednesday that workers hired to renovate the grand 140,000-square-foot manor and raze a small building on the same estate in southwest France mixed them up.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Puerto Rico's test

Can Twitter keep you out of jail?

Puerto Rico has turned to Twitter in an experimental effort to help reduce the number of violent crimes.

Officials are allowing three male prison inmates to use a Twitter account and share their experiences of being in jail. The pilot program is dubbed Follow Me so you Don't Follow Me.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Good news at last for Ford

Is that a triumphant look on the face of Toronto Mayor Rob Ford? He has just learned he can stay in office at least until mid-January in a conflict case. Ontario Superior Court Justice Gladys Pardu on Wednesday granted him a stay of an earlier decision that would have forced him out of power early next week. This allows him to keep his job until a ruling is issued on his appeal. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Girl-only abortions may reopen debate

Old wounds. Tory MP fears new technology may lead to abortion of female fetuses

If Canadians thought the last House of Commons debate around abortion was contentious, the next one is shaping up to be even more complicated and potentially a closer vote.

B.C. Conservative MP Mark Warawa is promoting a private member's motion that calls on the Commons to condemn the practice of sex selection. Sex selection occurs when a woman aborts a fetus — usually a female one — after determining the gender through an ultrasound.

Warawa said Wednesday his motion is about discrimination against women, rather than reproductive rights. It is not likely to come up for debate until March.

The father of two girls said he was compelled to act after watching a CBC investigative story last June. He doesn't have numbers on the prevalence in



Conservative MP Stella Ambler hugs Mark Warawa after he spoke on Parliament Hill in Ottawa on Wednesday. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada.

"I think parliamentarians are faced with two choices: We either condemn this form of discrimination against women and girls or we endorse it," Warawa said, accompanied by 11 Tory colleagues.

Although Warawa and his supporters would not concede

a connection between the motion and the wider debate over restricting abortions, the Prime Minister's Office is doing just that.

"The government is opposed to opening this debate. Parliament has already voted on this issue," spokesman Carl Vallee said. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Manhunt

45 illegals still evade authorities

The hunt is on for 45 Romanian nationals smuggled into Canada.

Government officials said Wednesday the missing are among 85 people who entered the country illegally since February.

Authorities have rounded up 40 of them so far and 30 of these were detained under new immigration law provisions that saw the group designated as part of an "irregular arrival," or human smuggling operation.

"We open our arms to true immigrants and true refugees who follow the rules," Immigration Minister Jason Kenney said at a news conference in Stanstead, Que., a border town believed to have been the group's entry point.

"We will not tolerate those who are abusing our generosity."

The first of five waves of Romanian nationals began arriving in February, officials said Wednesday.

The smuggling ring saw people travel to Mexico, cross illegally into the U.S., drive north to the border and sneak into Quebec.

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Car scam? U.S. regulators warn Canadians of non-existent dealership

American regulators have issued a warning about a car scam originating out of Oklahoma that appears to be targeting Canadians looking for great deals.

The warning is about Ambient Auto Centre, which has been advertising high-end, late model vehicles on several Canadian websites at prices well below normal.

The catch, according to Canadian and American regulators, is that Ambient doesn't appear to exist much beyond having an elaborate website.

"It's just a complete scam," John Cobb, an investigator with the Oklahoma Used Motor Vehicle and Parts Commission, said Wednesday.

"They're trying to get a victim on the hook to wire them

the money for a vehicle."

The company promises to ship the vehicle, but Cobb said that won't happen and the buyer would simply be out of any money sent.

The Canadian sites on which Ambient advertises include Autotrader, Wheels, eBay, Craigslist, Kijiji and Autocatch.

In an interview from Oklahoma City, Cobb said the scam appears to be aimed solely north of the U.S. border, and inquiries about Ambient have come in from across Canada. "You've got to do research, research, research," said Terry O'Keefe with the Ontario Motor Vehicle Industry Council.

He warned consumers to take extra precautions when buying a vehicle online.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Ambient Auto Centre'

Inquiries about Ambient began arriving at Oklahoma Used Motor Vehicle and Parts Commission in mid-October. When they couldn't find a dealer by that name, officials went to visit the dealership at the listed address. It turned out to be an empty field.

- Ambient's website boasts the "largest selection of used luxury cars" but photographs of vehicles appear ripped off from other car dealers, and testimonials appear fabricated. An industry spokesman said it's imperative to confirm a seller's identity.

Legal language update

Word lunatic removed from U.S. laws

The word lunatic will be stricken from U.S. federal law under legislation that passed Wednesday and is headed to President Barack Obama for signature.

The congressional action is the latest effort to remove language from the

U.S. code that has become outdated or demeaning. Two years ago Congress took out references in federal law to the term mental retardation.

The House of Representatives voted 398-1 to make the change.

The lone no vote was cast by Texas Republican Louie Gohmert who said the most pressing issue is saving the U.S. from bankruptcy.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Corruption inquiry

Star witness hit for unpaid taxes

A star witness at Quebec's corruption inquiry is having problems with the taxman in his work. Revenue Quebec announced Wednesday that it had seized \$38,465 and equipment from Lino Zambito's pizzeria because of unpaid tax.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Hit stage musical Spamalot sued by movie producer

Pedestrians walk under the marquee of the Broadway show Monty Python's Spamalot at the Shubert Theatre in New York in this 2008 photo. A producer of the film Monty Python and the Holy Grail is suing the comedy troupe over royalties from the hit stage musical Spamalot. Producer Mark Forstater wants a bigger share of proceeds from the show, which is based on the 1975 movie spoof of the legend of King Arthur.

CRAIG RUTTLE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE



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EU slams major electronics firms with \$1.9B fine

Cartel fine. 'There are victims: Millions and millions of citizens,' says EU antitrust chief

The European Union on Wednesday imposed its biggest ever cartel fine of about \$1.9 billion on seven companies for fixing the market of television and computer monitor tubes.

The EU's Commission ruled that, for a decade ending in 2006, the companies — including Philips, LG Electronics and Panasonic — artificially set prices, shared markets and restricted their output at the expense of millions of consumers.

EU antitrust commissioner Joaquin Almunia said that the companies' actions "feature all the worst kinds of anticompetitive behaviour that are strictly forbidden to companies doing



Commissioner for competition Joaquin Almunia speaks in Brussels, Wednesday, after the EU issued the largest cartel fine in its history.

business in Europe."

Tubes were the essential part of television screens and computer monitors before they were replaced by LCD and plasma flatscreens. The cathode ray tubes accounted for up to 70

per cent of the cost of a screen, the Commission said.

Almunia added that the tubes' cost gave "an indication of the serious harm" the companies had caused. "There are victims: Millions and millions of citizens."

Philips and LG Electronics, which acted jointly and separately, were fined a combined \$1.3 billion while Panasonic was punished with a \$203 million fine, adding up to more if combined fines and affiliates were included.

Despite its co-operation with the Commission probe, Philips said in a statement it planned to appeal the fine since it considered it "disproportionate and unjust."

Other companies fined were Samsung SDI, Technicolor, MTPD and Toshiba. Chunghwa of Taiwan escaped fines as it was the first to reveal the cartel to the EU. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



CRTC takes on Oprah

Oprah Winfrey appears at an interview with Late Show host David Letterman at his alma mater, Ball State University, in Muncie, Ind., on Nov. 26. Canada's federal broadcast regulator is taking on the television queen with a hearing next Tuesday into whether her Canadian network's programming fits the channel's educational mandate. Corus Entertainment Inc., which holds the licence for Oprah Winfrey Network in this country, said that nothing in the channel's licensing requirements prevents educational content from being "entertaining and engaging." **MICHAEL CONROY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE**

Citigroup to slash 11,000 jobs worldwide



This photo shows a Citibank branch in New York. Citigroup said Wednesday that it will cut 11,000 jobs, mainly from its consumer banking unit.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Citigroup said Wednesday that it will cut 11,000 jobs, a bold early move by new CEO Michael Corbat. The cuts amount to about four per cent of Citi's workforce of 262,000.

The bulk of the cuts, about 6,200, will come from Citi's consumer banking unit, which handles everyday functions like branches and chequing accounts.

Citi said that it will sell or scale back consumer operations in Pakistan, Paraguay, Romania, Turkey and Uruguay and focus on 150 cities around the world "that have the highest growth potential in con-

U.S. banking blues

- Job cuts are a familiar template in a U.S. banking industry still under the long shadow of the 2008 financial crisis.
- Banks are searching for ways to make money as new regulations crimp some of their former revenue streams, like trading for their own profit or

marketing credit cards to college students.

- Citi fared worse than other banks in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis. It nearly collapsed, had to take two taxpayer-funded bailout loans and became the poster child for banks that had grown too big and disorderly.

sumer banking." The bank did not say how many jobs it will

cut in the United States.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Real estate

Group launches takeover bid for mall owner

A consortium led by King-Sett Capital and including the Ontario Pension Board has launched a \$4.4-billion takeover offer for Primaris Retail Real Estate Investment Trust, one of Canada's largest shopping mall owners. The deal, if successful, would also see RioCan Real Estate Investment Trust buy five regional malls and three other shopping centres currently owned by Primaris for \$1.1 billion. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Market Minute

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100.84¢ (+0.16¢)

TSX
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CRTC won't review Telus's foreign ownership



Telecom. Regulator says it's satisfied with way Vancouver firm complies with requirements

The CRTC has decided not to review the level of foreign ownership in Vancouver telecom company Telus Corp., saying Telus is following the compliance rules.

The telecom regulator said

Tuesday that it has denied a request by new wireless competitor Wind Mobile to review foreign ownership of Telus.

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission said it's satisfied with Telus's mechanisms to comply with foreign ownership requirements, which must not exceed 33.3 per cent.

Wind Mobile failed to demonstrate that Telus's board of directors had any reason to question information received

about the level of foreign ownership, the CRTC said in its written decision. "Further, the commission is satisfied that Telus's mechanisms for ensuring its compliance are consistent with the provisions and requirements established in the regulations," the CRTC said.

The CRTC also said the onus is on carriers at all times to ensure they are complying with foreign ownership limits.

"The commission notes that the regulations establish the

By the numbers

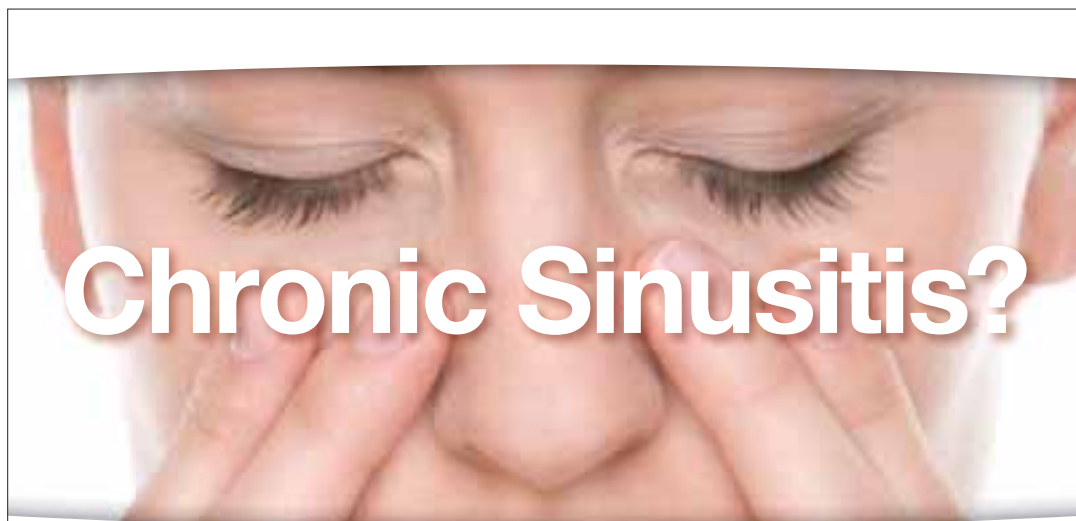
32.6%

When Toronto-based Globalive — the parent company of wireless carrier Wind Mobile — made the complaint last summer, Telus had reported that its foreign ownership was 32.6 per cent. More recently, Telus said its foreign ownership had dropped to about 15 per cent, largely due to a U.S.-based hedge fund selling a chunk of its stake in the company.

type of documentation required

to demonstrate a shareholder's Canadian status. They also establish that, before taking any additional action, the carrier's board of directors must have information that causes it to believe that the declarations it has received are incorrect."

Telus spokesman Shawn Hall said the decision verifies that Telus's foreign ownership controls are effective. "The issue that Globalive put forward simply didn't exist," he said. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



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Starbucks brews up expansion plans

A Starbucks beverage cup is pictured outside a Chicago-area store Wednesday. Starbucks, the world's biggest coffee company, is planning to add at least 1,500 cafés in the U.S. over the next five years. The plan, which would boost the number of Starbucks cafés in the country by about 13 per cent, was announced Wednesday at the company's investor day in New York. Taking into account Canada and South America, the company aims to add a total of 3,000 new cafés in its broader Americas region. **CHARLES REX ARBOGAST/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Dramatic turnaround

CBC gets top marks from Information Commissioner

The CBC has moved to the head of the class in the federal information watchdog's books. The public broadcaster received an A for its handling of Access to Information requests in 2011-12, up from an F for its performance two years ago.

Information Commissioner Suzanne Legault will release the latest report cards for the CBC and Canada Post on Thursday.

A copy of the CBC's assessment, obtained by The Canadian Press, says the broadcaster has made "dramatic improvements" since

getting the failing grade for its 2009-10 efforts.

The access law allows people who pay \$5 to seek access to federal files ranging from expense reports and email messages to briefing notes and internal audits. Federal departments and agencies are supposed to respond to requests within 30 days, but often take much longer — sometimes missing their own extended deadlines.

Legault discovered that in 2009-10, the CBC failed to answer almost 60 per cent of the requests it received within the required timelines. It took an average of 158 days for the broadcaster to respond.

In 2011-12, the percentage of timeline failures dropped to just over four per cent. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

I'VE GOT THE HYPERBOLIC PLAGUE, AND THERE'S NO KNOWN CURE



HE SAYS...
John Mazerolle
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I'm sick.

Not in the fun movie way where you get to take over cities and fight with Batman or Spider-Man.

Not in the whisky-commercial way where you whisper something amazing to your blond friend and her eyes go all wide because you're so darn naughty, you five-o'clock-shadowed bad boy.

And (this is the worst part) not even in the cough-cough cold-flu way where I get to admit that, yes, men are wimps and women are warriors and that's fine so long as I get some chicken soup and a pat on the head, many thanks.

No, instead I get to be sick in the way where you have a bunch of disparate symptoms and the doctors run tests and poke you with sticks and grimace at their clipboards

Immune-system overdrive

My skin responds to soap as if it's a bar of plague (99 44/100th per cent pestilent), and to my clothes as if it's No. 30 sandpaper. You could get a reasonable steam going if I were to lie down in the middle of a sauna and you poured water on my groin.

For instance, my immune system is fighting a major battle on my face right now. I'm not sure what's at stake, but my nose appears to be a strategic ridge of some sort, perhaps as a lookout for the vast expanse of cheek that lies beyond. Sometimes I swear I can hear a little voice yell "Charge!" though that may just be the mild fever.

My skin responds to soap as if it's a bar of plague (99 44/100th per cent pestilent), and to my clothes as if it's No. 30 sandpaper. You could get a reasonable steam going if I were to lie down in the middle of a sauna and you poured water on my groin.

On top of all that, previous illnesses have taught me that my blood clots too well. I'm a superhero, basically, though one of those anarchist ones who responds with disproportionate force.

Which brings me back to my theory that I've been infected with media: I don't mean that I've hooked up with Jennifer in the sports department or anything — I just mean that, after years spent in media organizations, my immune system has responded to problems like a typical journalist.

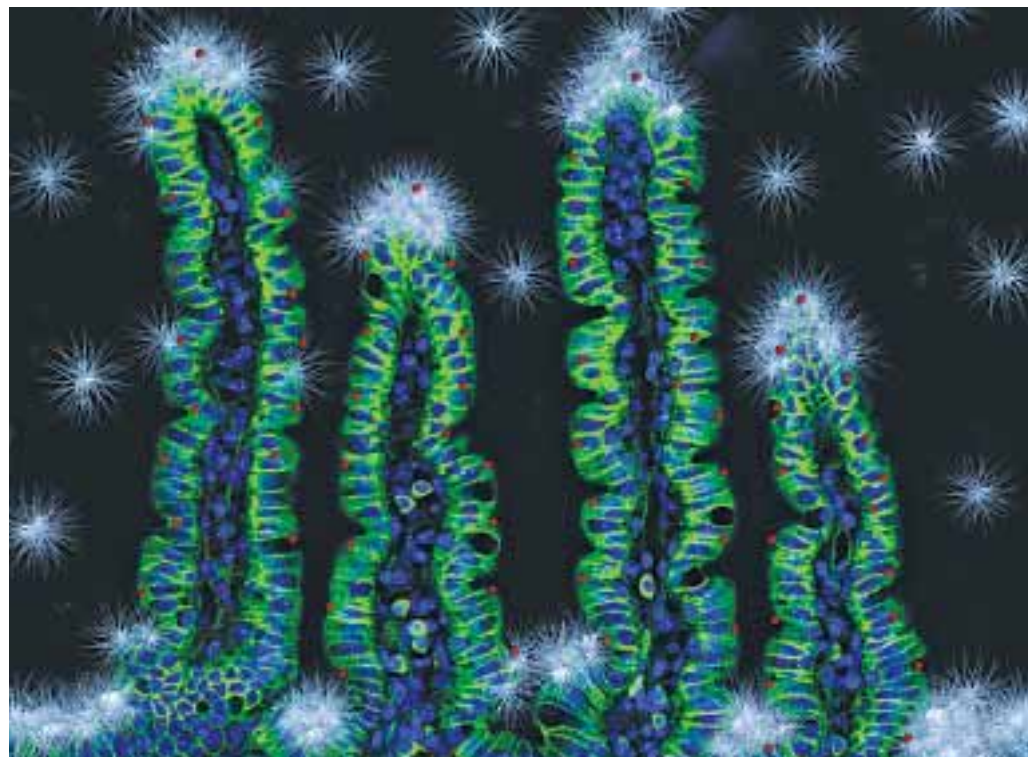
If a normal person noticed one bad thing in society — a stabbing, say — he'd call it an unfortunate fluke. Two instances, a coincidence. Three, a cause for concern.

But if a journalist notices one bad thing in society, it's a "tragedy." Two problems is a "rash." Three problems is an "epidemic." As you can see, we've been using medical terms all along.

I'm sure if you were to take a microscope and look into my bloodstream, you'd see a bunch of T cells wearing press hats and carrying notebooks, scurrying around in a panicked clot asking frantic questions in unison, ostensibly at invading viruses but often at nothing — or at a red blood cell shaped like a celebrity.

Happily, I know the best way to shut down a journalist. I plan to get ego massages until this problem subsides.

My gut tells me it's Christmas soon



ALEX GREENHOUGH AND PALOMA ORDONEZ MORAN/UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

Science photography

Snowy close-up of a human intestine

This Christmas scene, reminiscent of festive trees, is in fact an extreme close-up of a human intestine. It was captured by Alex Greenhough and Paloma Ordonez Moran of the University of Bristol, U.K., who are researching colorectal cancer. The "snow" was added by the scientists using a photo-editing program.

METRO

Q&A

Image was 'a bit of fun'

What is this image?

Alex Greenhough: It's a study of the human intestine using a confocal microscope, to detect the presence of certain proteins and cell nuclei in the organ.

More specifically, my colleague and I are studying the protein beta-catenin to understand why it sometimes becomes deregulated in cells of the intestine and why it leads

to the development of colorectal cancer.

By doing this research, we hope to further the understanding of cellular mechanisms that determine whether cells become cancerous, which we hope will lead to new opportunities for cancer prevention and therapy.

But this image seems more than science to you...

AG: Yes, the organized crypt-villus structures (of the intestine) in the image reminded me of Christmas

trees. When I heard about the university's Art of Science photo competition, I remembered the image we had captured during our research, so I quickly decorated the trees with snow (white) and baubles (red) using Photoshop software as a bit of fun.

What do you hope the audience will take away from your image?

AG: That scientists are imaginative and artistic, and not the stereotypical eccentrics in white coats.

METRO



Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Would you pay \$7 for Starbucks' new 'Geisha' bean coffee?



Twitter

@bensigurdson:

That Instagram Nickleback parody video thing is intolerable.

@NeverOmitNada:

Winnipeg is a great city. Definitely recommend visiting. For some reason there is an abundance of sushi restaurants. Not a bad thing.

@md_anyluk:

So proud of my big brother who is now a city of Winnipeg Firefighter. #CongratsBri

@RelatableTruth:

I've always wondered how do they manage to get cars inside the mall?

@ezpge8:

the problem with baby pictures is that, as far as I'm concerned, they all look pretty much the same.

@WpgVargs:

Whats it say about your leaders if they have to be out of the room to make progress? It says "wrong leaders." @NHL @NHLPA



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What's Gerry Dee's lesson? If you don't know, teach

Comedy. Idea for show, now in its second season, came from real life tales in his high school classes



BACKSTAGE PASS
Jared Story
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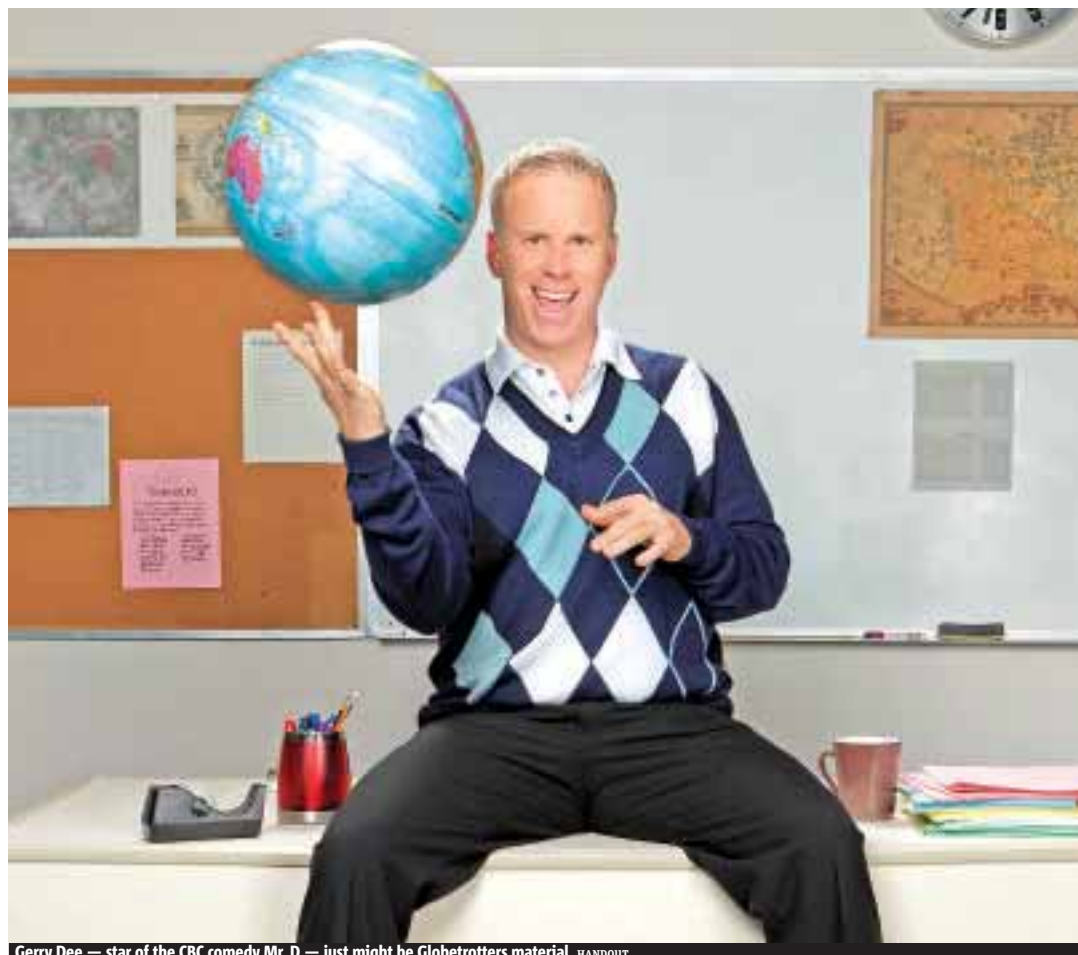
The second season of CBC's hit comedy *Mr. D* premieres Jan. 7. The series — which follows the bumbling exploits of educator Gerry Duncan — is based on the real-life experiences of creator, writer and executive producer Gerry Dee, who spent a decade as a high school teacher prior to his comic career.

"The show idea kind of came from my first few years, teaching history and geography and not really knowing that subject matter," says Dee, 43, who taught physical education and coached hockey at De La Salle College in Toronto.

"What I did on those days to get through the day is where the funny comes from. I delivered it in stand-up first and then we started thinking about it as a show."

Dee started making the transition from teaching to comedy in 1999. Stand-up success didn't happen overnight, but compared to most comics, Dee's rise was relatively quick. Three years in, Dee won the San Francisco Comedy Competition, the same contest that helped launch the careers of Dana Carvey, Robin Williams and Ellen Degeneres. Then, in 2007, Dee placed third on NBC's *Last Comic Standing*, which led to the recurring segment *Gerry Dee: Sports Reporter on The Score*.

"I had some different



Gerry Dee — star of the CBC comedy *Mr. D* — just might be Globetrotters material. HANDOUT

things to talk about then a 19 or 20-year-old who doesn't have much to talk about," Dee says, partly crediting his late start to his rapid rise. "I'm always amazed that Eddie Murphy did *Delirious* when he was 21. However, he was a very mature 21-year-old. I was a very immature 21-year-old. I

don't know what I would have talked about at that age."

Definitely not literature. In fact, on a recent episode of *George Stroumboulopoulos Tonight*, Dee admitted to reading just five books in his entire lifetime. That didn't stop him from writing *Teaching: It's Harder Than It Looks*. In

the book — released in October by Random House — Dee chronicles his teaching career and shares some tricks of the trade.

"Until you've walked a mile in our shoes it's easy (to criticize teachers)," Dee says. "You're there until 7 p.m. most nights if you're the right

kind of teacher. You're marking, you're prepping, you're doing a bunch of things that you're not on the clock for."

Dee brings his well-schooled standup to the Burton Cummings Theatre on Friday. Tickets are \$57.75, \$52.75 and \$47.75 at Ticketmaster. Showtime is 7:30 p.m.

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Carly Rae Jepsen and her catchy tune *Call Me Maybe* seem like obvious choices but even the singer isn't sure what to expect. GETTY IMAGES

Good luck trying to handicap Grammys

Music award season. Popular albums missing nomination deadline, music politics muddy this Grammy season

It's a brutal year to be in the Grammy nominations predictions game.

Sure, there are a few safe bets. Mumford & Sons and Frank Ocean are expected to take a share of nominations when they're announced.

And popular songs by Gotye, fun., Taylor Swift and Carly Rae Jepsen may land those artists on the list as well, though Jepsen harbours some doubt her omnipresent song *Call Me Maybe* will net a nod.

"I would be so shocked," the 27-year-old singer said last week. "But this year has taught me to look forward to surprises and just be ready for anything. So, cross your fingers for me."

Viral songs like Jepsen's seemed to be the theme of the year, and with no watershed albums during the nom-

Quote

"It was sort of an iffy kind of year in my opinion. I'm going to be honest: I think the politics kind of slowed the music down."

Sean Garrett

Music producer on why this year is so hard to call a clear winner

inating period for the 2013 Grammys like

Adele's 21 or Kanye West's *My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy*, it's not clear who will turn out as this year's top nominee.

Thus the guessing game.

The Grammy nominations period ended Sept. 30 and three of the year's top four debuting albums — from Swift, One Direction and Jason Aldean — came after that date. Rihanna also released a new album after the period ended.

All could have songs nominated, but a popular album is the quickest way to accumulate multiple nods.

Mumford & Sons slipped

in just under the deadline. Introduced to much of their burgeoning fan base through a 2011 appearance on the Grammys, the British folk-rock band could return with a flourish after selling 600,000 copies of *Babel* in the first week of release and setting streaming records on Spotify.

Sean Garrett, a producer for artists like Usher and Beyonce with multiple Grammy nominations, said a lack of clear trends during the nominating period made it difficult to guess going into the show.

"It was sort of an iffy kind of year in my opinion," Garrett said in a phone interview. "I'm going to be honest: I think the politics kind of slowed the music down."

He expects pop stars like Jepsen, Bieber, Swift and Korean sensation PSY to take home nominations, but doesn't see an artist accumulating a high number of nominations. That could leave room for newer acts, some of which he claims are his favourites.

"They have a very clever sound," Garrett said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Bon Jovi's life isn't always a bed of roses

Rough 2012.

Singer struggled as his daughter ran into trouble and Superstorm Sandy wreaked havoc on his beloved New Jersey

Jon Bon Jovi has been with his band for more than 30 years, so he could be considered something of an expert when it comes to the durability of rock stars. Still, even Bon Jovi is mystified at how the senior set is dominating on the stage.

"I can't get over it," said Bon Jovi, who will perform next week with Paul McCartney, The Who, Bruce Springsteen and a host of other superstars at the 12-12-12 concert at Madison Square Garden to benefit victims of Superstorm Sandy.

"I'm (expletive) dying already and I'm gonna go out there and play four songs. How

do they do it?" he said, joking. "The Who and (Mick) Jagger and McCartney. ... I'm not going to be that journeyman. ... I'm not going to be that 75-year-old guy doing 150 shows a year."

But at 50, he's not ready for early retirement either. Bon Jovi has a couple of songs in the upcoming Al Pacino film, *Stand Up Guys*, and the band just completed their 12th studio album, *What About Now*, set for release early next year. They also have a world tour kicking off in Connecticut on Feb. 9.

Bon Jovi was in a jovial mood when he sat down last week to discuss his group's upcoming projects, but turned sombre when he discussed some of the more painful events to hit him in 2012: The devastation caused in his home state of New Jersey by Superstorm Sandy and the recent troubles of his 19-year-old daughter, Stephanie Bonjovi, found unresponsive in her dorm room at an upstate New York college last month after an apparent heroin overdose. Still, he discussed it all

with candour — and optimism.

What was the intent of releasing the single, album and tour in stages?

I know how to do it. It's as simple as that. ... New songs are why artists go on the road. That's why I go on the road. It's a three-prong play. Writing: You're intrigued. Recording: It brings it to life. And then you want to share it.

Do you see similarities between you and Bruce Springsteen as philanthropists?

My philanthropy is no relation to anybody else's. None. My philanthropy and what we do at the foundation speaks for itself and has no relation to anyone's. I don't know what he does as a humanitarian. I have no clue. ... I'm talking about what I do at the Soul Kitchen (his community restaurant in New Jersey). It's a whole other level. It's millions of dollars in a foundation that does stuff.

With your daughter recently in the news, how do you go forward from there?

I didn't have any sisters. We bring home this girl the first day. Now what? Where's the manual? There was no manual. So you bring her up the best you can, you surround her with hugs and kisses and know that she may eventually fall down. I appreciate the outpouring of kindness in light of what happened in my household. I'm shocked as much as the next parent with this situation and had no idea. But then you surround them with best help and love and move on, and that's where we're at with it. Steph is a great kid. Great GPA. Cool school, Hamilton College up in Clinton, N.Y. Everything about it is idyllic. She was doing great. Then a sudden and steep decline. Hopefully, we caught it when we did and that's the end of it. But who knew? I've got three more to come.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



In a recent interview Jon Bon Jovi talked candidly about his daughter's apparent drug overdose. DAVE HALLMAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Easy to do holiday 'dos

Kristen Stewart's hair stylist Adir Abergel walks us through festive hairstyles that are simple enough to do on the fly in your bedroom, but look like you've spent hours in a salon.

ROMINA MCGUINNESS
life@metronews.ca



The low chignon

"This look is classic and chic and can do no wrong," Abergel says. "It's both sophisticated and modern and will work for any kind of event you're heading off to."

1 Apply a volumizing styling whip to damp hair and blow-dry.

2 Create a centre part that is low and flat

and secure a low ponytail with a hair band.

3 Wrap the hair around the ponytail to create a low bun.

4 Secure your hair using some bobby pins.

5 Spray the entire look with hairspray in order to hold everything in place.

Get the look

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HOLD:
Bumble &
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Conscious
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Casual waves

"It's no surprise that we often see this look on Hollywood celebrities as well as models when they are off-duty. These easy waves are naturally beautiful, laid-back and glamorous at the same time," Abergel explains. "And it's also much easier to copy than you'd think."

1 Apply UV protectant spray to damp hair before blowing it dry.

2 Separate your dry hair from the front to the back behind the ears and clip up.

3 Take the back section of your hair, split it in two, and clip up one of the sides

4 Take one vertical section of hair from top to bottom

5 Grab a hot iron and roll away from your face (as you roll, make sure you twist at the same time).

6 Once the hair is heated through, gently take it off the roller and let it set so the waves cool in place.

7 Repeat the above on other side.

8 Once you've gone through all the hair, run your fingers through to get your desired look.

9 Finish off with some hairspray to keep your look for longer without allowing the hair to go stiff or sticky.



The pin-straight blow-dry

"This elegant look is perfect for showing off shiny, healthy hair, and who doesn't want that? Glossy hair is the perfect accessory to any outfit and this sleek look is the best way to show it off," Abergel says.

1 Apply a lifting and texturizing spray or gel to damp hair at the roots and blow dry by scrunching your hair until it's completely dry.

2 Divide the top of your hair into two sections. Take the front section and brush it forward with a large round brush. Wrap the hair around the brush, roll it up and blow-dry

it out slowly in order to smooth the hair as much as possible. Repeat with the back section.

3 After smoothing the hair out, wrap each section around a large velcro roller and clip it into place.

4 Flat iron the rest of hair in order to straighten it one section at a time. Focus on the middle and the ends of the hair so that the volume is kept at the roots. Remove the rollers, comb out both sections and flat iron from the middle to ends of the hair only, not from the roots.

5 Set the look using hairspray and a glossing mist.

Low heels for really tall girls

'Can you recommend any Michelle Obama-style pumps that are low but fashionable?' —Lisa

METRO WORLD NEWS/KENYA HUNT

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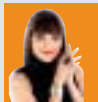
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@Jeanne_Beker: With the stunning @SarahGadon who's receiving a Crystal Award today from @WIFT #crystalawards



@Jeanne_Beker: My beautiful mom, circa 1957. She'll be 92 next Sunday!! (Bless her....)



@Jeanne_Beker: With top Cdn Dior make-up artist Annemarie Vandermeer @TheHudsonsBayCo @Sherway_Gardens



@Jeanne_Beker: Sleek, sassy and seductive are the operative words @gretconstantine

The Kit

Canadian street style

Spotted in: Ottawa

Lainy

Political Analyst and thrift store enthusiast

Age: 34

What she's wearing

Vintage boots from Kensington Market, pants bought at Marshalls, blazer by Alfred Sung, scarf was a gift from a friend.

Her inspiration

"I'm a sucker for thrift stores and bargains — nothing is more fun than finding a great deal on style!"

THE KIT PHOTOBLOGGER: JUSTYNA BARANIECKI,
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Alexander the Great: Balenciaga gets boost

Fashion's future.

Connoisseur of cool to bring modern aesthetic to classic brand

Young downtown designer Alexander Wang is taking over the creative direction of storied Paris fashion label Balenciaga, likely bringing his cool-girl, sporty look to a house made famous by its founder for graceful, fluid lines.

The company made the announcement on Monday that 28-year-old Wang would fill the spot vacated last month by Nicolas Ghesquiere, who left after a 15-year run there.

Wang's "proven talent, modernity and individual and cosmopolitan vision of design will naturally embrace and enrich the unique heritage of this fashion house," said Isabelle Guichot, president and CEO of Balenciaga, said in a statement.

Wang comes with credibility: His seasonal runway shows are considered bellwethers of fast-fashion trends, and he has won Coun-



Alexander Wang. GETTY IMAGES

Labour of love

"I am deeply honoured to embark on this new role for a brand and house that I have such great admiration and respect for."

Alexander Wang

brand was founded in 1919, but Balenciaga started making real waves in fashion with its first Paris collections in 1937.

Balenciaga died in 1972, and the house didn't fully regain its footing until Ghesquiere took over in 1997 and brought critical acclaim along with pop-star fans such as Beyoncé and Rihanna.

Wang has a similar celebrity appeal and he's a favourite with fashion editors and the models. At his show last February, for example, he staged a catwalk comeback for the likes of Gisele Bündchen, Carmen Kass and Shalom Harlow.

Wang will continue his New York-based signature collection.

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With Hanukkah stretching over eight nights, offer variety of treats

"The Spice Cookies are loosely inspired by the German Christmas favourite Pfeffer-nusse and are actually more closely related to an Italian spice cookie," write Yotam Ottolenghi and Sami Tamimi in Jerusalem: A Cookbook.

Ottolenghi and Tamimi, who both emigrated from Jerusalem to London, England, say the cookies are popular at their four Ottolenghi restaurants over the period of Hanukkah and Christmas.

The Festival of Lights begins at sundown Saturday and ends on Dec. 16.

1. Soak currants in brandy for 10 minutes.

2. In bowl, mix flour, cocoa powder, baking powder, baking soda, spices, salt and dark chocolate. Mix with a whisk.

3. In stand mixer fitted with beater attachment, place butter, sugar, vanilla and lemon and orange zest and beat to combine, about 1 minute. With mixer running, slowly add egg and mix for about 1



This recipe makes 16 cookies. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

minute. Add dry ingredients, currants and brandy. Mix until it comes together.

4. Gently knead dough in bowl with hands until it comes together. Divide dough into

chunks (each about 50 ml/1/4 cup) and shape each chunk into a perfectly round ball. Place balls on baking sheets lined with parchment paper, spacing 2 cm (3/4 inch) apart, and let rest in fridge at least 1 hour.

5. Heat oven to 190 C (375 F). Bake cookies 20 minutes, until tops firm up but centres are still slightly soft. Remove from oven; let cool 5 minutes and then transfer to a wire rack. While cookies are still warm, whisk together glaze ingredients until a thin and smooth icing forms. Pour 15 ml (1 tbsp) of the glaze over each cookie, leaving it to drip and coat cookie with a very thin, almost transparent film. Finish each with 3 pieces of candied peel placed at the centre. Leave to set and serve. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ JERUSALEM BY YOTAM OTTOLENGHI AND SAMI TAMIMI**

Dietary restrictions

Please note, the recipes on this page may not meet specific dietary restrictions.

Ingredients

- 175 ml plus 30 ml (3/4 cup plus 2 tbsp) currants
 - 30 ml (2 tbsp) brandy
 - Scant 500 ml (2 cups) all-purpose flour
 - 7 ml (1 1/2 tsp) best-quality cocoa powder
 - 2 ml (1/2 tsp) baking powder
 - 1 ml (1/4 tsp) baking soda
 - 2 ml (1/2 tsp) each ground cinnamon, allspice, ginger and nutmeg
 - 1 ml (1/4 tsp) salt
 - 150 g (5 oz) good-quality dark chocolate, coarsely grated
 - 125 ml (1/2 cup) unsalted butter, room temperature
 - 150 ml (2/3 cup) superfine sugar
 - 5 ml (1 tsp) vanilla extract
 - 2 ml (1/2 tsp) each grated lemon zest and grated orange zest
 - 1/2 large free-range egg
 - 15 ml (1 tbsp) diced candied citrus peel
- ### Glaze
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) freshly squeezed lemon juice
 - 325 ml (1 1/3 cups) icing sugar

Cookbook of the Week

Unique food and city



For the book Jerusalem: A Cookbook, Yotam Ottolenghi teams up with his friend and co-owner of his restaurants, Sami Tamimi. Both men were born in Jerusalem in the same year: Tamimi on the Arab east side and Ottolenghi in the Jewish west.

In this book, they explore the cuisine of their home city and present a collection of recipes that reflects a melting pot of Muslim, Jewish, Arab, Christian and Armenian communities.

Among the recipes are: Seafood and Fennel Soup, Kofta B'Siniyah, Sweet Filo Cigars and more. **METRO**

Cheesecake with Orange-Scented Honey — and a story

Everyone knows — or at least every Jew knows — the story of Hanukkah's origins, the story of how just a tiny amount of oil miraculously burned for eight days. And they know that, in the spirit of that story, Hanukkah is celebrated in part by eating foods fried in oil, such as latkes and doughnuts.

But in much of the world, Hanukkah also is celebrated by eating salty cheeses. And for that, there is another and equally fascinating story.

The short version goes something like this: Around 2 B.C., a Jewish widow saved her people by ingratiating herself with an enemy general, plying him with salty cakes of cheese, then wine to quench the thirst it brought. When he fell into a

drunken stupor, she lopped off his head with his own sword.

When this story became associated with Hanukkah is unclear.

Olive oil became an important part of this festival of lights and the foods eaten during the celebration were a nod to this, as was the story of the miraculous and essential oil. Latkes, or pancakes fried in oil, were initially made of eggs and flour or sometimes cheese, and this could be when the story of the salty cheese cakes took off.

1. Heat oven to 375 F. Line baking sheet with parchment paper. Arrange bay leaves in the centre of the parchment in an 8-inch circular pattern.

2. In bowl, beat eggs, vanilla and half of orange zest. Beat in ricotta, then flour. Mix should form thick batter. Scoop batter onto arranged bay leaves on the prepared baking sheet. Use a silicone spatula or the back of a spoon to spread the batter into an 8-inch circle over the bay leaves. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes, or until golden.

3. Meanwhile, in saucepan over medium-low heat, combine honey and remaining orange zest. Heat for sev-



This recipe serves six. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

eral minutes until thin and warmed.

4. When cake is done, use wooden skewer to poke holes in the top. Drizzle a third of warmed honey over cake, letting it soak into surface. Place serving plate over cake, then overturn so cake is on plate. Use skewer

to poke holes in the surface again, then drizzle the rest of the honey over the cake.

5. Let the cheesecake rest for at least 30 minutes to allow the honey to soak in. Sprinkle with poppy seeds, then cut into 6 wedges and serve warm or at room temperature. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Latkes. A North American twist on the popular potato pancakes

1. Heat the oven to 350 F. Then in bowl combine sweet potatoes, Yukon gold potatoes, scallions, eggs, flour and 1/2 teaspoon salt. Mix well.

2. In nonstick skillet over high, heat 1 tablespoon vegetable oil. Reduce heat to medium and add 4 rounded 1/4-cup mounds potato mix, flattening each mound to a 3 1/2-inch circle. Cook 2 minutes, then turn them over and add another

Ingredients

- 1 lb sweet potatoes, peeled, coarsely grated and squeezed of excess moisture
- 3/4 lb Yukon gold potatoes, peeled, coarsely grated and squeezed of excess moisture
- 2/3 cup finely chopped scallions (white and green parts)
- 2 large eggs, lightly beaten
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- Kosher salt
- 6 tbsp vegetable oil, divided
- 1 cup nonfat plain Greek yogurt
- 1 to 2 tsp minced chipotle pepper in adobo sauce, or to taste
- Pinch of sugar
- Fresh cilantro, to garnish



tablespoon vegetable oil. Cook, turning several times, until golden on both sides, about another 6 mins.

3. Transfer to a rimmed baking sheet. Repeat the process with the remaining potato mixture and oil. Then bake on middle shelf of oven 5 minutes, or until they are cooked through and tender. Sprinkle lightly with salt, if desired.

4. While latkes are baking, in a bowl combine yogurt, chipotle, a pinch of salt and a pinch of sugar. Stir well. To serve, arrange 2 latkes on each of 6 serving plates. Top each one with a dollop of chipotle yogurt and a fresh cilantro leaf. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ SARA MOULTON**

Ingredients

- 6 fresh bay leaves
- 2 large eggs, beaten
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- Grated zest of 2 oranges, divided
- 1 1/2 cups whole milk ricotta cheese
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/3 cup honey (orange blossom if possible)
- 1 tbsp poppy seeds

Black and gold trending for 2013



DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

Get advice from any old-school interior designer and they'll all give you the same rule: Every room needs a bit of black. The sharp contrast that black offers helps any room come to life. For a long time we've been getting that contrast with very dark brown, but look out for black. While we haven't seen it since the early '80s, it's on its way back in home decor.

Black's revival came out of the very dark brown tones commonly used as well as out of the popularity of grey over the past few years. From fashion to home decoration, grey has become a staple in our lives, outshining the taupe and beige scene. That grey is now darkening itself into its truest form — black.

Metallic colours have predominately been cool tones like silver and nickel. Now things are warming

up with champagne (a half-silver, half-gold mix) for contemporary homes and old brushed brass for traditional homes. The metallics have certainly heated up and any warm, golden tone will be hot for 2013.

Used in small spaces or large spaces

You might not think such a dramatic, dark colour like black would work in a small space, but if you're consistent with your tones, then any colour can work. Black adds a sense of drama and sophistication to a room and if you usually use your space at night, why not consider black as a main element.

Try to keep a balance

When mixing the black and gold colour combination in a modern space, use 70 per cent black and 30 per cent gold.

In more traditional settings, flip the coin and use 70 per cent gold tones and 30 per cent black to sharpen things up. Funny, the 70/30 rule applies to a lot of great design rules.



Organic hammered oval Angenam bowl

Hold the predictable fruit and nuts or a single candle for a golden illumination. \$20, ikea.ca.



Floor-to-ceiling style

Black floors, door frames and bookcases create a dramatic statement. ralphlaurenhome.com.



Lassalle Vanity

Grand scale goes invisible with an all black vanity or desk. \$2,500, crateandbarrel.com.



Gold pig bookends

From snout to tail, your books will be sandwiched in style. \$35, cb2.com.



Desire Gold wallpaper

Add some deco glamour to your walls. \$80/roll, graham-brown.com.

Classic Chambord French coffee press

Serve up morning coffee in style. \$70, anthropologie.com.



Exotica Cheetah 4-x-6 pelt

The classic animal print is hand made of wool. \$185, ecarpetgallery.com.



Hakkari Hurricane lamps

Harness nature's warm glow. From \$32, crateandbarrel.com.

Wrapping everywhere! Pack presents the green way

What are greener alternatives to paper when wrapping gifts?



QUEEN OF GREEN
Towah Paglaro
green@metronews.ca

The presents have been opened, the kids are playing happily and you start stuffing all that wrapping paper into a recycling bag. Sure, it beats a garbage bag, but you know you could do even better.

Just look at those lovely kids — taking the extra step is the greatest gift you can give them.

Fabric wrap

Wrapping gifts with festive fabric is my favourite sustainable option! Keep it simple by purchasing beautifully made bags and accessories from small retailers or get crafty and make your own.

Folding fabric as gift wrap is also pretty simple and the end results can be spectacular. Whether you're giving wine, flowers, a box or some irregular shaped delight, you'll appreciate the step-by-step folding tutorials at furoshiki.com.

Get creative

Who says that gifts need to

wrapped in wrapping? A boxed item can be wrapped in a scarf. Tea towels can hide wine bottles. And socks stuffed into a paper towel roller make for a fun surprise.

Maybe the kids in your house would enjoy making their own wrapping? Large bolts of cloth can be decorated with fabric paint and reused year after year. Gifts in cardboard boxes are already wrapped — just unleash the children's creativity directly on the box.

Post-consumer wrap

If you are going to wrap a gift in paper, look for wrap that

is printed on 100 per cent recycled paper, with a high post-consumer percentage. Paper should be processed chlorine-free and printed with vegetable-based ink.

Bows and buttons

It's not just the paper that causes problems.

Those bows and ribbons are a mysterious assortment of plastic, making them difficult to recycle at the end of their life. It also takes a lot of resources to produce and ship them.

Obviously, reuse the ones you have on hand. But once they've been used up, replace

them with fabric ribbon and buttons. Or take your inspiration from nature and decorate with felt, pinecones, pressed flowers and other bits or beauty located in your backyard.

It can be fun to make your own gift tags and decorations, but if crafty isn't your thing, turn to Etsy or your local holiday market. There are lots of artisans who'll appreciate your green holiday buying power.

Have questions for the Queen of Green? Write to tpaglaro@davidssuzuki.org or tweet @DavidSuzukiQoG



Try making your own gift wrap out of festive fabric. ISTOCK IMAGES

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DIY DECOR TIP: FESTIVE LAUREL LEAF WREATH

STEVEN AND CHRIS RETURN WITH NEW EPISODES JAN. 7 ON CBC. THEIR ROSTER OF EXPERTS DELIVER IDEAS AND ADVICE ON TOPICS INCLUDING HOME DECOR, FOOD AND ENTERTAINING, HEALTH AND FITNESS AND MORE.

Don't let your front entry experience the winter blues. Jazz it up with this beautiful and inexpensive DIY wreath.

Directions

1. Using wire cutters, cut the metal frame on wreath and remove the support from one end.

2. Bend metal frame to achieve a laurel-leaf shape.

3. To create the bow, fold one sheet of moss in half horizontally and glue

together so you're left with a long skinny strip of double-sided moss. From there, loop each end into the middle and secure with a second, thinner piece of moss. Finally, attach tails for bow with hot glue.

4. Add extra sprigs of pine from your bundle to fill in any bare holes or blank spots. You will need to use wire to secure the pieces to the wreath.

5. Secure bow and accents to bottom of laurel

leaf. Decorate with ornaments to complete the look.

Materials

- Wire cutters
- Prefabricated pine wreath
- 2 moss sheets
- Hot-glue gun
- Pine bundle
- Wire
- Decorative accents (pine cones, magnolia leaves, etc.)
- Traditional holiday ornaments

Keeping dinner hot and ready

How does the Butler keep a Christmas dinner hot for the fancy people you work for? I just want to keep it warm for my family to make my life easier.
— Anxious Holiday Cook



**CHARLES
THE BUTLER**
askcharlesthebutler@
metronews.ca
For more, visit
charlesmacpherson.com

Dear Anxious Holiday Cook:

That's a great question considering all the money and work that goes into preparing Christmas dinner.

So what is this great secret? Well, timing is one of the most important issues when cooking in the kitchen. You ideally want as much of your meal to be ready at the same time, but chefs (and Butlers) still have another trick up our sleeves. It's called "a Bain Marie" — a fancy French term for water bath or double boiler.

So how does this relate to your question? Well, when chefs make



There's a lot of work and preparation that goes into Christmas dinner.
ISTOCK IMAGES

certain foods like mashed potatoes and gravy — or meat — they may put the pot into a hot water bath. This keeps them perfectly hot, moist and ready to serve without cooking them further.

You can cover the pot or container you are going to

put in the hot water bath with saran wrap. The water bath allows you to hold the items at a hot temperature so that you can serve them all at the same time.

Although you can go much longer, I don't keep food in the pots for longer than 30 to 40 minutes.



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Party hosting tips

Planning ahead can ensure a memorable and safe night for everyone and make your party the highlight of the holiday season. Here are a few planning ideas courtesy of Labatt Breweries of Canada.

- Throughout the night, make available food that has carbohydrates, protein and fat, as these slow down the absorption of alcohol.
- Let's make a deal: Make a plan to help guests get

home safely, whether arranging a set fee with a local cab company to shuttle your guests to and from the party, or renting a mini bus and charging \$5 a head for a safe ride home.

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If you are likely to consume alcohol at a party during the holidays, don't take your vehicle. ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

Sober holiday thoughts

Stats. Impaired driving is leading criminal cause of death in Canada, police say

It doesn't seem to matter how often we talk about the dangers of drinking and driving. Someone, somewhere, isn't listening.

According to statistics provided by the Ontario Provincial Police, impaired driving is the leading criminal cause of death in Canada. And, sadly, arrests for impaired driving hit a year-long peak during the final weeks of the year.

For those who haven't noticed, the penalties for drinking and driving are considerably tougher, thanks to groups like Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD). Even for first-time offenders, defending a drunk-driving arrest is expensive.

"Everyone recognizes that the holiday season is a great time to reconnect with family and friends and celebrate with a few drinks," said Mauro Convertini, insurance expert at Aviva Canada. "It's important, though, to have a plan in place to get yourself and your loved ones home safely."

Convertini offers some simple tips to ensure a safe and happy holiday season:

- Plan ahead: If you are likely to consume alcohol at an event or party, don't take your vehicle.
 - Use a designated driver: Remember, the "least impaired" person in the room is not a designated driver.
 - Use public transit: If this is not an option, make arrangements to spend the night if you are visiting a friend.
 - Use a taxi or limousine service: There are more than 35,000 operating in Canada.
- By following these sobering safety tips, let's hope Canadians responsibly enjoy the best of the holiday season and the year ahead.

NEWS CANADA



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CFL

Walters goes from sidelines to Bombers' front office

The Winnipeg Blue Bombers have looked inside for their new assistant general manager.

Kyle Walters has been picked for a job that current general manager Joe Mack agrees could be a stepping stone to the top spot he now holds. The 39-year-old has been the Bombers' special teams co-ordinator for the past three seasons.

"I think any good organization is going to want to always be conscious of a succession plan," Mack said Wednesday in a telephone interview.

His official title will be assistant general manager and director of Canadian scouting.

Although Walters has a house in Winnipeg, he spoke by phone from Hamilton to say he was excited about the new job but also a little sad to be giving up a nine-year coaching career.

The former defensive back with the Hamilton Tiger-Cats previously worked as a defensive co-ordinator and also as head coach at the University of Guelph.

"That's the thing I'm certainly going to miss the most, is the on-field coaching and being around the players," Walters said. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Quoted

"I think our intention is certainly for Kyle to grow in the position and be a candidate (for GM) when that does occur."

Bombers general manager Joe Mack on his new assistant, Kyle Walters



NHL commissioner Gary Bettman speaks to reporters after an NHL board of governors meeting on Wednesday in New York. MARY ALTAFFER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lockout talks gain steam in Gotham

Day 81. Sense of urgency increases as sides try to strike deal

By the numbers

50

According to sources, the owners are discussing a possible 50-game season. They felt a 60-game schedule was too ambitious given the current timeline.

A wave of optimism gave way to tension as the NHL and NHL Players' Association spent a second straight day trying to hammer out a collective bargaining agreement.

The sides exchanged proposals during a series of brief meetings on Wednesday afternoon, according to sources, in a bid to close the final gap in negotiations that have spanned more than five months.

The urgency was evident as a group of six league owners shuffled between internal meetings and short sessions with players and union staff at a hotel in midtown Manhattan.

At one point, Boston Bruins owner Jeremy Jacobs could be seen having an animated conversation with deputy commissioner Bill Daly outside the negotiating room. Meantime, players paced the halls while speaking on their cellphones.

Even though the specific details of the new offers weren't known, one aspect revealed another hurdle the sides have to cross — the length of the deal. The league's proposal called for a 10-year term while the NHLPA

continued to favour a shorter contract, according to sources.

With tensions rising, commissioner Gary Bettman and NHLPA executive director Donald Fehr kept themselves out of negotiation sessions for a second straight day. However, Bettman did provide a brief update to reporters after a two-hour gathering of the board of governors, saying he was "pleased" with how things were progressing.

That was about all he was willing to reveal.

"We are pleased with the process that is ongoing and out of respect for that process I don't have anything else to say and I'm not going to take any questions," said Bettman.

The two sides have cleared their schedules for the rest of the week after successfully get-

Splitting the pie

Both the league and union proposed a 50-50 revenue split last month, but they remain separated on payments to be made outside the system to help ease the transition from the previous deal, which saw the players receive 57 per cent.

- The NHL has offered \$211 million in deferred compensations while the union is asking for \$393 million.

ting an adjournment from Quebec Labour Board hearings that had been scheduled in Montreal for Thursday and Friday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

4 SPORTS

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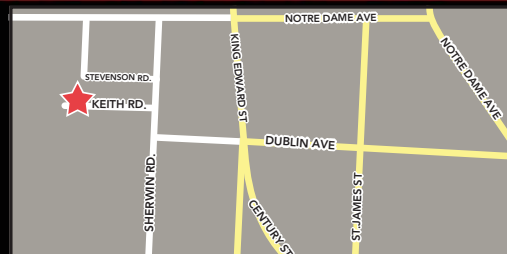
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Horoscopes

Aries

March 21 - April 20

If you start something new today, there is every chance it will succeed — so get busy! Mars in the career area of your chart gives you the drive and the ambition you will need to undertake a major new project.

Taurus

April 21 - May 21

Play to your strengths today and you won't go far wrong. Decide what it is that means the most to you and focus on it to the exclusion of everything else. If others say you are being selfish, take it as a compliment!

Gemini

May 22 - June 21

You now have the drive and the determination to accomplish something out of the ordinary. The fact that others say it cannot be done — or should not be done — will encourage you to prove them wrong. You love a challenge.

Cancer

June 22 - July 23

A breakthrough of some kind is possible but you have to be proactive. If you just sit there waiting for events to come round your way, you may be waiting a very long time. What can you do to speed things along?

Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

Good luck will come to you over the next 24 hours but not in the form of material things. Most likely, it will be in the shape of a friend whose wise words are worth more than all the gold you could carry.

Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

You are under fortunate stars at the moment and if you don't quite believe that now, you will start to believe it over the next few days. The more you think and act lucky, the more luck you will attract.

Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

It is probably going too far to claim that you can transform your life over the next 24 hours but you can certainly change it in important ways. You are already moving in the right direction. All you have to do is take longer strides.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

If you feel compelled to move in a new direction, you must not fight against it. It may seem strange to you now but over the next few days you will see that it is entirely to your benefit. Trust your instincts.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

Why are you so defensive? Why do you insist on believing that the world is against you and you need to protect yourself? It's time to snap out of it. Reality is what you want it to be, so lighten up and live.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

Put yourself in the spotlight today so that employers and others in authority can see who you are and what you can do. Yes, some people may think you are being too pushy but better that than you not pushing at all.

Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

If you want to make changes then now is the time. Don't take it as a bad sign if certain people try to talk you out of it or place obstacles in your path. They're just afraid you'll succeed. And you will.

Pisces

Feb. 20 - March 20

Some people never stop moaning about how tough life is, but it isn't true. Each day can be a new beginning and each day can be full of every joy imaginable. Make love and laughter your watchwords today. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword

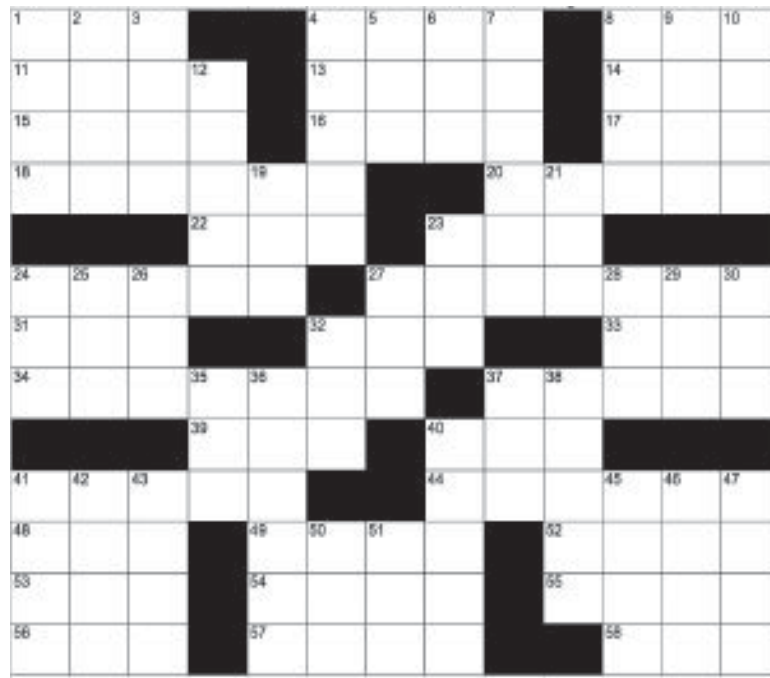
Across

1. Actor James Van — Beek
4. Cigarette substances
8. Globe
11. Brainstorm
13. Beatles Meter Maid
14. By way of
15. Glitch or hitch
16. Paradise
17. Height abbr.
18. Vacation necessity
20. Wooded valleys
22. Volleyball need
23. "I am —"
24. Scolds
27. Peter Falk drama
31. Bullring cheer
32. Food morsel for Mister Ed
33. Dinghy mover
34. Chic
37. Over yonder
39. Want ad abbr.
40. Ocean
41. Trample
44. Grease pencil, for one
48. Hit lightly
49. Dueling sword
52. Yearn
53. Letter after ka in Spanish
54. Math calculation
55. Halt
56. Ink holder
57. Ogle
58. Winding curve

Down

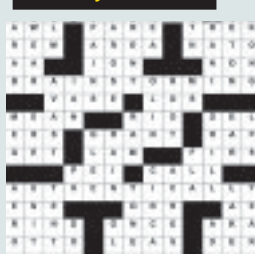
1. Computer data holder
2. Charlotte Rae on The Facts of Life
3. Paper quantity
4. Halloween candy
5. Pitch in
6. Map abbr.
7. Summer shoe
8. Racetrack shape
9. Brook
10. Belfry dwellers
12. Broker
19. Matter for the courts
21. Aussie bird
23. Tippler
24. Eggs
25. — in the Family
26. Indicates maiden name
27. Family pet
28. One of The Three Stooges
29. Cheers was one
30. Source for raw metal
32. Toronto province
35. Herd
36. Implore
37. Some like it hot
38. Heavenly strings
40. Daub
41. Ladder rung
42. Yarn
43. — Mike with Mike Bullard
45. Stringed toy
46. The Dukes of Hazzard spin-off
47. Bodybuilder's count
50. Prior to
51. Wide shoe spec

BY BETTY MARTIN



6. Map abbr.
7. Summer shoe
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50. Prior to
51. Wide shoe spec

Yesterday's Crossword



What's online

See today's answers
metronews.ca/
answers.



Sudoku

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku

8	2	5	3	6	9	1	4	7
9	3	4	8	1	7	2	6	5
1	7	6	4	2	5	8	3	9
2	5	3	6	7	8	4	9	1
4	9	7	2	3	1	6	5	8
6	1	8	9	5	4	7	2	3
3	4	9	7	8	6	5	1	2
7	6	1	5	9	2	3	8	4
5	8	2	1	4	3	9	7	6

6		9		1	5			3
	8			9				7
	2			7			1	
9							5	
		6	8		9	7		
	1							4
	5				7		9	
3					4		8	
8			1	2		3		

Weather

TODAY



MAX: -5°
MIN: -6°

FRIDAY



MAX: -14°
MIN: -18°

SATURDAY



MAX: -14°
MIN: -19°



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